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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS-14

DECEMBER 31, 1943

FINAL CROP ESTIMATES

Despite the smallest number of workers in the 35 years of record, American farms in 1943 turned out the second largest harvest ever seen. Crop production was 6 percent less than in 1942 but nearly 5 percent more than in any previous season. Compared with the 5 years, 1937-41 (moderately favorable seasons) crop acreage was up 4½ percent, yields per acre up 5 percent, and total production of the 53 principal crops, including fruits, up 9 percent. "Farmers and their families worked more hours per week and more Sundays than in any year known in this generation."

Record large crops in 1943 include potatoes, beans, peas, soybeans, peanuts, rice, and various minor crops such as hemp, snapbeans, carrots, and lettuce. Crops approaching record size include corn, barley, grain-sorghums, all grains as a group, total hay crops, and vegetables for processing. Crops not far below usual size include wheat, oats, tobacco, and sweetpotatoes. Unusually small crops this year included apples, peaches, pears, cherries, apricots, and strawberries.

Total acreage of crops harvested in 1943 was about 347½ million acres, 9 million acres or 3 percent more than harvested in 1942, this notwithstanding that about 13½ million acres were lost by floods, drought, and other causes, such losses being nearly 2 million more than in 1942.

CITRUS FRUITS

Orange crop now on the trees very promising; with average weather, production of oranges and of total citrus fruits should break records. U. S. crop of oranges and tangerines for the 1943-44 season estimated at 96,290,000 boxes, 8 percent more than large output of last season and 13 percent above 1941-42. Total grapefruit crop indicated 49,187,000 boxes, 3 percent under previous season, but 22 percent above 1941-42.

Florida's citrus crops received rain after long drought; early and mid-season crop of oranges estimated 22 million boxes, compared with 19.1 million last season. Tangerines estimated 3.2 million boxes, against 4.2 million boxes in 1942-43. Grapefruit estimated 25 million boxes, against 27.3 million last season. Marketing of Florida citrus very active.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	NOV. 15 1943	DEC. 15 1943	DEC. 15 1943
Wheat, bu. dol.	1.37	1.43	1.49
Corn, bu. dol.	1.05	1.11	1.08
Oats, bu. dol.	.752	.769	.670
Cotton, lb. ct.	19.40	19.85	20.83
Potatoes, bu. dol.	1.33	1.35	1.21
Hogs, 100 lb. dol.	12.90	12.80	12.20
Beef cattle, 100 lb. dol.	11.30	11.40	9.11
Veal calves, 100 lb. dol.	12.70	12.70	11.30
Lambs, 100 lb. dol.	11.90	12.10	9.88
Butterfat, lb. ct.	50.9	51.0	¹ 48.4
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. dol.	3.39	3.40	¹ 2.94
Chickens, live, lb. ct.	24.3	24.4	19.2
Eggs, doz. ct.	47.1	44.9	¹ 44.0

¹Adjusted for seasonal variation.

MEAT ANIMALS

Hog market glutted; inspected slaughter during November 6, 972,000 head, breaking all records; 35 percent over slaughter a year ago. Terminal markets overflowing, embargoes frequent, slaughter and storage capacity taxed to the limit. Prices generally at the support level. Average weight of all packer and shipper purchases of hogs in 7 leading markets, week ended December 11, was 241 pounds, 8 pounds under same week last year. W.F.A. increasing its purchases and announces still heavier buying over next few weeks; bought 115 million pounds of pork in November and over 131 million pounds of lard. Commercial storage holdings of meats December 1 increased 18 percent over previous month; but stocks of lard and rendered pork fat dropped from 157.1 million pounds November 1 to 123.2 million pounds December 1.

Inspected cattle slaughter in November was up slightly over previous month. (Usually cattle slaughter declines from October to November.) It was 20 percent above November 1942. November calf slaughter was also 20 percent above last year.

Inspected slaughter of sheep and lambs in November 9 percent above last year. Slaughter of mature sheep very heavy; ewes made up 31 percent of total slaughter this October against 21 percent year previous.

PIG CROP

There will be fewer pigs in 1944. Indicated number of sows to farrow next spring is 16 percent below the record number farrowed last spring. Number of fall pigs saved this year (June 1 to December 1) estimated 47,831,000 head, or 10 percent larger than record fall

crop of 1942 and 72 percent above the 1932-41 average. Number of sows farrowing in fall season of 1943 was 12 percent larger than year ago. (However, this number was considerably below earlier expectations, the breeding intentions recorded last June having indicated a 25 percent increase this fall.) The indications point to a marked decline in pig production next year.

CATTLE ON FEED

Somewhat fewer cattle on feed December 1 than year ago, yet reduction is less than expected. Total shipments into 8 Cornbelt States, during November, 388,000 head, compared with 391,000 a year previous. Shipments

through the markets were up about 6,000 head but direct shipments down about 15,000. For 5 months, July through November, shipments into the 8 States totaled 1,552,000 head, down about 7 percent from last year.

LAMBS ON FEED

November shipments of feeder lambs into Cornbelt were heavy and changed the feeding situation somewhat from previous expectations. Total movement into 8 States in November was 558,000 compared with 465,000 last year. Both market and direct shipments larger this year. For 5 months, July through November, total movement of lambs into these 8 States (which do not include Missouri, South Dakota, or Kansas) was 3,026,000, compared with 2,916,000 year ago. Now seems probable that lamb feeding in Cornbelt, excluding Kansas, will be larger this year than last; but the sharp reduction in lambs finished on wheat pastures in Kansas will more than offset increases elsewhere, so that total lamb feeding in Cornbelt will fall below record number of last year.

DAIRY

Total milk production has declined more than usual since June, most pronounced declines being in manufactured products; rapid decline after June made total for first 10 months this year 0.6 percent below like period of 1942. Increased consumption of fluid milk left shorter supply for manufacture. Total milk production in October 8,726 million pounds, 2 percent under October last year. Production per cow November 1 was down 4.5 percent under year previous; number of cows larger than last year but smaller percentage being milked. Later declining figure reflects labor shortage on dairy farms.

Butter production in October 107.6 million pounds, down 15 percent from September and lowest for the month since 1928. Stocks of cheese varieties other than American, November 1, were 36.4 million pounds, virtually the same as a month previous. October production of evaporated milk 188 million pounds, down 19 percent from September (compared with a normal decline of 6 percent.) Output of dried skim milk for human food in October 23.8 million pounds, a drop of 28 percent from previous month.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Number of laying hens declined more than seasonally from June to August. However, in November number of layers was still 402 million head, 6 percent larger than year ago. Number of eggs produced per hen since March has been slightly lower than last year. For first 11

months of 1943 output per laying hen was 135 eggs, compared with 136 last year and average of 122. The seasonal low point in egg production is in November and laying is now on the increase. Market receipts now running a little larger than year ago. Egg production during November 4 percent above last year. Stocks of shell eggs in storage December 1 totaled 1.8 million cases, compared with 4 million on November 1 and 1.2 million December 1 last year.

FARM LABOR

November weather was generally ideal for winding up the harvest and other fall work and total farm employment declined less than usual. On December 1 there were 9,519,000 persons working on farms—only slightly below number last year and average. Seasonal decline in total number farm workers during November was only

11 percent, compared with an average decline of 13 percent. Number of hired workers December 1 was 2,250,000, about 1.3 percent fewer than last year and 1.8 percent below average. Although number of family workers fell off about 10 percent during November, there were 7,269,000 such workers on farms December 1, compared with 7,272,000 year ago. On December 1 farm operators were working an average of 11.1 hours and hired help 9.4 hours, compared with the September 1 working day of 12.4 and 10.2 respectively. Farmers are working about 1 hour per day longer now than in 1939; hired hands slightly longer.

During 1943 as a whole, estimated that average number of workers employed on farms was 10,263,000, this being 1 percent fewer than in 1942 and the lowest average in the 35 years of record. All the drop below 1942 was in number of hired workers.

FARM INCOME

Total income from farm products sold during November, including Government payments, \$2,050 million, compared with \$1,825 million in November 1942. Government payments this November \$38 million, compared with \$61 million a year ago.

For the 11 months, January to November, total income \$17,939 million, which includes \$620 million Government payments. Comparable figure last year \$14,492 million, which included \$625 million Government payments.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142-Branch 4407.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	DECEMBER 1943
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	197
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes	1910-14 = 100	168
Parity ratio	1910-14 = 100	117
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	164
Retail prices of food	1910-14 = 100	¹ 177
Farm wage rates	1910-14 = 100	¹ 272
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	² 402
RATIOS	LONG-TIME DEC. AVERAGE	DECEMBER 1943
Hog-corn ratio, U. S.	11.6	12.4
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	27.4	23.8
Milk-feed ratio, U. S.	1.36	³ 1.43
Egg-feed ratio, U. S.	26.2	20.1
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN. - NOV. 1942	JAN. - NOV. 1943
Milk, (bil. lb.)	111	110
Eggs, (bil.)	45	51
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	5,853	5,384
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	792	864
Pork, (mil. lb.)	8,675	10,770

¹November figure.

²Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. September figure.

³Includes an allowance for dairy feed payments.